BENGALURU, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2021 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 18 | Humidity 84% Misty morning & mainly cloudy sky Sensex 57,794 | Nifty 17,203 | Gold 47,743 | Silver 62,006 | Dollar 74.41 | Euro 84.15 | GBP 100.41

A WONDER DRUG?

A DEEP DIVE ON MOLNUPIRAVIR

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SHUT-DOWN FEAR

IT IS A MATTER OF LIVELIHOOD NOW

PAGE 5

WE BEAR WITNESS

2021, THROUGH BM'S EYES

PAGE 8

As civic authorities 'withhold compensation' for urban animal rescuers, a few on the job allege they are often mistreated by affluent residents

INTO THE SNAKE PIT

City has just 7-8 full-time snake rescuers

"We are supposed to receive Rs 13,000 per month. We haven't received it for the past 3 years... In case of a snakebite, we bear all medical expenses..." — Mohan, snake rescuer

Melvin Mathew
mybangaloremirror
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Mohan was bitten by a snake in 2013. He lost a kidney, suffered nerve damage and a stroke as a result. Despite all of the above, Mohan continues to serve the city and its wildlife — he is a snake rescuer.

In the event of a snake bite, animal rescuers like Mohan have no other option than to bear the medical expenses.

"If rescuers get bitten, they have to drag themselves to the nearby hospital on their own. The treatment will cost around Rs 2 lakh. At times, hospitals face shortages of anti-venom too," Mohan told BM.

The volunteer snake rescuers on call go house-to-house and work 24X7. They play a key role in protecting the rich biodiversity of Bengaluru offering what is a selfless service. Now, though, these guardians of the city's serpents are complaining that 'ill-informed citizens are misbehaving with them'.

For the 1,27,65,000 people in Bengaluru, there are only 7-8 full-time snake rescuers. Whenever citizens sight the reptiles, the rescuers are called in to help capture and relocate the animals.

The rescuers told BM that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

Omicron slipping through cracks

Two cases of variant from non-high risk countries raise concern

Iffath.Fathima@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Among the five new positive cases of Omicron variant of covid-19 detected in Karnataka on Wednesday, two cases have raised alarm. As the government is focusing on travellers from high-risk countries, a few cases of travellers from non-high risk states and countries have tested positive for the variant.

High risk countries for the Omicron variant at the moment are countries in Europe including the UK, South Africa, Brazil, Botswana, China, Mauritius, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Singapore, Hong Kong and Israel.

According to the guidelines, only passengers coming from the aforementioned high risk countries will be screened at the airport. Until their results arrive, the passengers in question will have to stay at the airport.

As for the non-high risk countries, one need not get tested, unless symptomatic at the airport or if not fully vaccinated. However, even if tested, the non-high risk country passengers could still leave the airport even before the results arrive. However, two cases of such incidents have come to light where travellers from non-high risk countries have tested positive for the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Into the forest

Check out Bengaluru-based artist Ganapati Hegde's artwork which are a part of KYNKYNY.com's latest virtual exhibition, 'Into the Forest'. Into the Forest celebrates the deep and wondrous forests of coastal Karnataka. Hegde's acrylics and oils on canvas transport us into the middle of the lush, brilliantly coloured landscapes teeming with wild flora and a myriad of creatures. The exhibition is the artistic equivalent of forest bathing. In these times of ecological disaster and climate change, Hegde's ecological and environmentally engaged art also reminds us of the fragile balance that exists between nature and humanity. **Where: KYNKYNY.com; When: Till Dec 31**

02 Fusion lehengas, anyone?

Kankatala Sarees presents a special collection of handpicked fusion lehengas. The collection comprises twenty-five lehengas where some capture the elements of Bandhani work blended with Banarasi, some feature age-old Patan Patola motifs adorned with Chikankari dupatta, while some accentuate Kanchipuram body with Paithani motifs on dupatta. All these fusion lehengas are woven in real gold zari.
Where: Kankatala showroom, Jayanagar, www.kankatala.com; When: Jan 6 – 7

03 Shop for some carpets

This winter, give your home a makeover with warm and cozy carpets for your guests with Carpet Kingdom's hand-picked pieces for the season. The winter collection at Carpet Kingdom has a wide range from hand woven Afghan Kilims in bold colours to a range of pure woollen carpets to add warmth to your party space this holiday season. Available for shipping across India and the globe. **Where: Carpet Kingdom, HAL Stage II When: Till December 31; Call 7406016452 / 9741599655 for more information**

Molnupiravir: A wonder drug or a limited star?

Some call the oral pill a game-changer, others say more data needed

KAUSHIK JN

At Majestic Bus Stand, health workers collect swab samples for testing for covid-19

With the centre granting Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) for the antiviral Covid-19 pill molnupiravir, experts in the city have different views on the efficacy of this drug. While some state it could be a wonder drug, others say out that more data needs to be out.

Molnupiravir is an oral antiviral that inhibits the replication of multiple RNA viruses including SARS-CoV-2. It forces SARS-CoV-2 to try to replicate its genetic material. However, as the process begins, the pill inserts errors into the genetic code of replicating virus, said a set of experts.

Molnupiravir should be administered as soon as possible after a diagnosis of Covid-19, and within five days of onset of symptoms according to the initial data, the drug is said to prevent progression of disease leading to hospitalisation.

Dr Manohar K N, Consultant, Internal Medicine, Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road, said: "Adult Covid-19 patients with comorbidities like Diabetes, CKD, COPD Heart Disease, COPD, immunocompromised conditions, obesity can be given molnupiravir.

"Phase-III clinical trial showed that the pill was able to reduce the risk of hospitalisation or death in half. Later, in the final analysis, the company clarified that molnupiravir reduces hospitalisation or death by 30 per cent. The drug's efficacy is considerably lower than what was reported in interim analysis in October."

In terms of the dosage of the drug, the course has 40 pills -- 800mg (four 200 mg capsules) to be taken orally every 12 hours for five days, with or without food. Completion of the full five-day treatment course is important to maximise viral clearance and minimize transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

Likely to have limited power

Dr Manohar added: "This is not a wonder drug. It is likely to have limited role in high-risk patients if given early in course of disease".

Dr Anoop Amarnath, member of states Critical Care Support Team (CCST) said, "We have to see the clinical benefits. The clearance from the regulatory authority comes with some caveats. Each company has to provide details of the post-marketing surveillance data of 1,000 patients over the next three months. This data will ascertain safety and efficacy details. Hence it's too early to consider it as a standard of treatment."

Based on findings, molnupiravir is not recommended for use in patients who are pregnant and may cause foetal harm. Experts also pointed out that females of childbearing potential should use a reliable method of contraception correctly, as applicable, for the duration of treatment and for four days after the last dose of molnupiravir and breast-feeding was not recommended during treatment with molnupiravir.

It has even been stated that males of reproductive potential who are sexually active with females of childbearing potential should use a reliable method of contraception correctly and consistently during treatment and for at least three months after the last dose.

Could be a game-changer

Dr Manu Chaudhary, Paediatric Infectious Diseases Specialist, Rainbow Children's Hospital, Marathahalli stated it could be a game changer.

"The oral anti-covid medication will be a game-changer as it means lesser hospitalisation for antiviral medication. More the options for vaccination, faster is the coverage. More vaccinated population means less severe disease and reduced burden on healthcare system. They should make the availability and distribution more equitable."

Karnataka is now a state of concern

Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The Covid surge is continuing in the state with 707 testing positive for the virus on Thursday. Bengaluru alone reported 565 cases -- a new high in the last three months.

The total positivity rate for the state is now at 0.61 per cent. While the surge is worrisome, the only consolation is the lower number of fatalities. Around three people died of Covid as per Thursday's health bulletin with all the three fatalities reported from Bengaluru while 29 other districts had zero deaths. According to BBMP's hospitalisation data for December 29, only one patient was being treated in the ICU (ventilator), five in ICU, 20 in high-dependency units (data pertaining only to government medical colleges, hospitals and Covid Care Centres).

Meanwhile, another yardstick of the severe infection was the demand for liquid medical oxygen (LMO). As per the latest statistics, the allocation of LMO for Karnataka is 1,200 MT while only 162.12 MT is being used currently. A senior IAS official said, "Until now, there has been no increase in daily oxygen consumption as compared to October 2021."

The Union government on Thursday said that Karnataka along with Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Gujarat are emerging as states and union territories of concern on the basis of weekly Covid-19 cases and positivity rate. It said that eight districts were reporting over 10 per cent weekly positivity rate, while 14 districts were reporting between 5 - 10 per cent positivity rate.

India's R naught value, which indicates spread of Covid-19, is 1.22, denoting that cases were increasing, not shrinking, the government said.

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NO HOPE FOR SIGN HERE

Residents of Bapujinagar say all boards marking crosses are plastered with posters or writings on them have faded... It has been been this way for the past year

Melvin Mathew
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@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Bapujinagar claimed that in the past year it has become difficult for those new to the area to navigate their way around. They pointed out that most signboards at crosses in their locality are either plastered with posters or have faded.

"Most signboards are either bent or broken or plastered with posters. In some parts of the locality signages are being used to dry clothes now," Archana KR, a resident, told BM.

The residents said that citizens are only pasting posters and drying clothes on the signboards as the writings on them have faded completely and they don't serve their true purpose anymore.

"It is difficult for us to instruct volunteers with directions while auditing the road. Auto rickshaw drivers face issues too," Archana said. She is a member of Reap Benefit too.

She told BM that a senior citizen was once unable to find the location they wanted to go to due to the faded signboards. Further, she stated that very few residents attend ward committee meetings where such issues can be brought up as they are not aware or the meetings.

Clothes hung on a plastered signboard

The residents said that citizens are only pasting posters and drying clothes on the signboards as the writings on them have faded completely and they don't serve their true purpose anymore

However, Archana had addressed the issue in a meeting herself and was told that it will be fixed.

Aleem, president, Kanakapura Resident Welfare Association, said, "Multiple signboards in our area have been sanctioned and placed on top of each other. Tenders are called for signboards that already exist. This is the case all across the city."

Urban experts noted that the root of the problem is a lack of decentralisation in the city. "This is also a responsibility assigned to ward committees. Complaining that BBMP is not doing its job is not very productive considering that they are not aware of the ground realities of each area," said Vijayan Menon, a member of Citizens Action Forum.

Snake rescue: civic body short-staffed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

they get more calls during the night than day time. As the city falls silent and ground vibrations subside relatively, snakes slither into houses/compounds in search of prey — mice, frogs and such . According to the rescuers, despite visiting homes to capture and relocate snakes, they still are an oft-ill-treated lot.

"When safety is a major concern, the residents' behaviour is quite alright. However, once the snake is safely rescued and bagged, residents start 'treating us like tissue paper'. Some don't even allow us to go through the same door; we have to use the backdoor. Often, we are told to climb over the compound wall to exit. At times, some refuse to give us water to drink from inside the houses," said Prasanna Kumar, an animal rescuer working with the BBMP since 2006.

Another rescuer noted that some residents refuse to provide soap to wash hands after the rescue. People living in slums tend to show the deserved respect while it is the affluent in upmarket residential localities who don't behave professionally with the animal rescuers, according to the rescuer.

Ever since the BMP turned to BBMP, large-scale urbanisation that followed destroyed the wildlife habitat; there has been an increase in the 'conflict' between humans and wildlife. The BBMP is understaffed in terms of animal rescuers for the population of Bengaluru. The small number of rescuers who are on call are not provided a fixed salary by any department and are paid an honorarium. "On an honorarium basis, we are supposed to receive Rs 13,000 per month but we haven't received it for the past three years now. This is a high-risk job leaving no time for personal life. In case of a snake bite, we have to bear all the expenses," Mohan told BM.

Snake rescuers in the city are dependent on the generosity of the few to make ends meet.

Mohan questioned how officials getting such huge salaries in the city are unable to pay Rs 13,000 to an animal rescuer.

"We have demanded to increase the staff members from seven at present to 30 to cover the entire city effectively and to pay us fixed salaries," added Mohan.

BBMP special commissioner for lakes and forests B Reddy Shankar Babu said he wasn't aware that honorariums were not being paid for the past three years: "As per my knowledge, the files are stuck at the finance department — I promise to get these processed before the new year."

However, the BBMP is now planning to recruit more personnel to address the issue of understaffing, though a tough task, considering the civic body needs to select individuals who are willing to dedicate their lives to animal rescue. "There is a thin line between rescuing and causing unintentional damage to animals. In collaboration with the wildlife warden, the selected individual will be trained, certified and appointed. The team will be working in full-swing within 2-3 months," added Babu.

"If rescuers had come forward and informed the authorities, BBMP could have provided medical insurance and emergency care," added Babu, reacting to animal rescuers having to bear medical expenses in the event of a snake bite. The BBMP is also planning to hire vehicles for animal rescue.

Fog causes jam, accidents on NH 4

On Thursday, as many as 12 people sustained injuries and around 10 vehicles got damaged in a serial accident that occurred on National Highway 4 in Nelamangala due to heavy fog and poor visibility during the early hours of the day. Traffic movement on the highway was disrupted for over two hours and hundreds of vehicles were stranded on either side of the highway. Nelamangala Traffic Police struggled to restore normalcy and used cranes to remove the damaged vehicles to clear the road. According to the police, a few vehicles, including a KSRTC bus, a private bus and few goods vehicles heading towards the city from Tumakuru, collided with each other after one of the drivers struggled with visibility due to heavy fog near T Begur. The driver of the private bus sustained fractures on his legs and several other passengers of two other buses were injured.

Those injured were taken to Nelamangala Government Hospital for treatment. They are reportedly out of danger now. The police has registered a case and is looking into the accident. **— BMB**

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Nowhere to walk

JP Nagar

All the pavements near Dhanvanthri Park on 21 Main Road are occupied by vendors. The encroachers have left very little space for pedestrians.

Fix this

Nandi Durga Road

The pavements on this road are too narrow and unfir for senior citizens.

Pest control needed

MG Road

Folks have been feeding pigeons here, but the birds are causing inconvenience to residents nearby.

SHUT-DOWN FEAR

After facing losses during first and second wave of covid, many fear the government might shut businesses again

Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

KAUSHIK JN

Many say the night curfew and extra checks being conducted across the city are just a part of the restrictions

With the swimming pools reopening recently, lifeguard Santosh Kumar working at a pool on Hesaraghatta Road was glad to resume his job. Now, as covid cases are on the rise, he fears that he may soon lose his job again. "During the first wave, the swimming pools were shut and re-started for two months before it was again shut during the second wave. Now, after being open for November and December, the swimming pools may get shut again. Till now, no single cluster has emerged from a pool. Experts and the government fail to realise that hundreds like me will lose jobs. There is no compensation from the government and I have to head back to my village."

As the covid cases increase, the fear of a third wave is looming large. However, along with the third wave and health concerns, many are now worried over the economic fall out of the third wave. While the economy of the country went into recession during the first wave, many businesses have been badly hit since then. The second wave dented it further and now fear over the possible third wave has cast shadow over the recovery.

"I am asking customers if we can deliver food to their doorsteps in case there is a lockdown again and eateries are shut

– Ravi Gowda, pani puri seller

Ravi Gowda, who runs a pani puri stall, said, "We might be the next target like it happened during the second wave. I am a small-time businessman with no other income. As my business shut for three to four months earlier this year, my family had a tough time managing daily expenses. So, now with the Omicron surge, I am scared.

Every day, I am asking customers if they want to share their phone numbers so that we can deliver the food to their doorsteps in case of any lockdown or shut down of roadside eateries. Millions of people like me cannot afford another shutdown."

Devesh Shetty, who runs a hotel, said that the business never recovered since the outbreak of covid. "We were hoping to make a decent business for the New Year's Eve. However, we were given a blow with the imposition of a night curfew. We understand and support the government's decisions as measures should be taken to curb the surge. But, who will understand our concerns? During the first wave, there was a moratorium on loans, which was never repeated for the second wave. Now, if there is no business, how will I pay the salary for employees or repay the loans. The BBMP doesn't even help us by waiving off the property tax."

The recent surge in cases has left Lakshmeesha S, an entrepreneur, tense. "I run two factories and a number of people are depended on them. "During the first wave, we were asked not to terminate anyone and pay them full salaries, which we did. However, since then there has been no business."

Sendil Kumar, who used to work in a private company in Peenya, lost his job during the first wave. Since then, he has been trying hard to find a job. "The second wave delayed my chances of getting a job. When cases started going down, many prospective employers asked me to contact them in January. Now, the Omicron scare is dampening my spirits."

According to a report by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, one crore people had lost their jobs in the country and around 97 per cent of the incomes from households had seen a dip.

Businesses can operate till 10 pm today

The city police commissioner on Thursday issued an order permitting all hotels, pubs, clubs and other commercial establishments to operate till 10 pm on Friday. However, gatherings of any form in public places are prohibited between 6 pm and 6 am on Saturday. The order states that gathering of five or more people or any form of gathering in public places, main roads and open areas is strictly prohibited. New Year celebrations in any open place, park, grounds and other public places are prohibited. However, residential complexes and private clubs can organise events for residents and members. Any person violating the guidelines will be booked as per the provisions of Sections 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act 2005, Epidemic Disease Act along with Sections 188 of the IPC and other relevant sections of law.

Pshychological brunt equally bad: Expert

Lakshya Reddy, a psychologist said, "Covid doesn't just affect organs, but also the psyche. During the lockdowns and other travel restrictions, we have seen a number of patients who have faced loneliness and withdrawal symptoms. Whenever there is a surge in cases, many people fear that more than being infected with covid, they are literally scared of the economic implications.

I have been counselling a number of patients who are yet to overcome the job loss they suffered during the first and second waves. Now, many call me to ask will there be another lockdown and if there is one, they can definitely not manage it.

As compared to the experts' claim that covid had become an endemic in the country and it may not see a rapid surge, the new surge is really worrisome. I feel that the covid surge is not just a health concern but also a psychological and economic concern as well."

₹30 extra for wild entry

BBP safari charges to increase from January 1

KAUSHIK JN

The Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) will hike the safari rates starting on January 1, after the decision was taken by the Zoo Authority of Karnataka on Thursday.

The decision to increase the cost comes after the governing council of zoo authority of Karnataka decided to revise the entry and safari fee of BBP to sustain the increased expenditures towards fuel charges, feeding, maintenance and other recurring expenditure.

For the non AC bus safari, which includes zoo and safari package, the existing rate for adults was Rs 200, and on weekends and government holidays the price was Rs 350, while for children, the cost was Rs 150 on weekdays and Rs 200 on weekends. For senior citizens, on weekdays the ticket price was Rs 200 and Rs 250 for weekends. In the revised rates, Rs 30 has been hiked for all ticket categories. Even for foreigners, the cost has been increased by Rs 30. The ticket prices for foreigners now are Rs 530 for adults and Rs 430 for children. For the AC Bus safari, which is inclusive of the zoo, safari, butterfly, park and camera charges, the prices have been increased by Rs 50. While in for the Jeep safaris, which includes six seater non-AC jeeps, six-seater AC jeeps, six seater AC Xylo, eight-seater non-AC Xylo jeep and seven-seater Innova, the prices has been increased by Rs 300 for jeeps and other cars by Rs 500 on weekends.

A BBP official stated that prices of food for animals have increased. "Due to the added expenses, it was decided to increase the ticket prices. Many staffers are asking to increase their wages and the maintenance charges are also going high. The charges have been increased minimally in order to meet the park's needs," said the official. — BMB

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I Malar Vizhi S W/O, Ekambaram Varadaraj R/o No 335, 4th Main, 2nd A Cross, Ombr Layout, Banaswadi, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Nadiya Sampath

PARENTS of MOHAMMED NAMRAN, R/o # 307, 11th A Main, 34th Crs, Yarabnagar, BSK II Stage, B,lore changed name of their Son to MOHAMMED RAFAN vide affidavit dt. 29/12/21 before Notary H G Padmanaba Rao

I, N MARY SHERLY, R/at #11/1,South Street Cross, South Side, Neelasandra, Bangalore- 560047 I, Have changed my name to HIBA FATHIMA, W/o. Syed Khaja Pasha Vide Affidavit Dated: 29/12/2021. Sworn before Notary: C.V.Earappa, Advocate, Bangalore

I Jincy Mole Kureakose,no 35,2nd cross,Amrita Nagar,Kasavanahalli,Sarjapur Road,Bangalore-35 have changed my name to Jincy Reji

I Sumathi Bai Rajendra Singh W/O, Rajendra Singh Chandrabhan R/o No 598, 2nd Floor, 11th Cross, 7th Main, J P Nagar 3rd Phase, Bengaluru-560078, Karnataka have changed my name to Sumathi Singh for all purposes

I, Raghavendra Chetty Terala S/o Terala Pattabhiramaiah chetty R/o No.220, Shivagiri, Balaji road, 2nd block, Thyagarajanagar, Bengaluru 560070 have changed my name to RAGHAVENDRA TERALA affidavit Dt.30/12/2021 notary Harisha.G B'luru.

I, FAYAS MOULANAHOUSE MAHAMADBASA, R/at Kottoli Village, K Boikeri Post, Virajpet Tq, Kodagu - 571218. I, Have changed my name to FAYAS K B, Vide Affidavit Dated: 29/12/2021. Sworn before Notary: C.V.Earappa, Advocate, Bangalore

I, Yadalam C.Bavani W/o Raghavendra Terala R/o No.220, Shivagiri, Balaji road, 2nd block, Thyagarajanagar, Bengaluru 560070 have changed my name to BAVANI RAGHAVENDRA affidavit Dt.30/12/2021 notary Harisha.G Bengaluru.

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Traffic cops get sharper eyes

AI bodycams are aimed to increase public-police transparency and make monitoring better

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
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The city traffic police have received a new addition to their uniform to maintain transparency between public and police engagement.

The new body cameras, which was inaugurated by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday, will be part of their uniform as personal equipment.

CM Basavaraj Bommai inaugurates bodycam system for traffic police

Joint commissioner of police (traffic), BR Ravikanthe Gowda said that the body cameras will be given to all 4,300 traffic police personnel. "This is to maintain transparency between the public and the traffic police. The cameras will be kept on throughout the day and about 700 cameras will be live streaming at the command centre in the commissioner's office, along with the geo location," he said.

The cameras can be live streamed and the footage can be transferred through USB cables. The cameras will be fixed on the uniform and will be connected to the mobile phones through an application.

CM Bommai said that there are over 5,000 vehicles in the city and over 3,000 heavy goods vehicles coming from other cities and states hit the city roads. "To have smooth flow of traffic, we have identified 12 high density corridors which would have high quality roads with seamless signals. The body cameras will not only monitor traffic violations, but it will also monitor their behaviour."

The new artificial intelligence cameras with a 360-degree view will be installed in busy junctions, which will identify the traffic flow in all the roads and detect the roads with heavy traffic flow, he said.

"The AI cameras will synchronise with the other traffic signals, which are ahead of the roads for smooth flow of traffic. Automatic number plate detection cameras will identify the violation and immediately send an SMS to the vehicle owner, unlike the old school method of manual monitoring after which notices were sent to their house addresses. The traffic police, BBMP, BESCOM and other agencies will be coordinating and working together," he added.

BangaloreMirror
To ensure transparency in public-police engagement, i
about 2 months, city traffic police will don body camera
while on duty in what may revolutionise urban policing
EYE FOR AN EYE
350 body cams to beam live footage to TMC

Bangalore Mirror was the first to report city police's plan to introduce bodycams for revolutionising urban policing

Device to solve loudspeaker issue

In order to resolve the issue of complaints around loud speakers being used in mosques, a delegation comprising members of the Imarat-e-Sharia, met with the city police commissioner with a device developed to control the sound decibels as per the prescribed decibel unit standards. Following a series of raids by police in many mosques and booking cases and seizing the loud speakers, the members consulted a team of technical expertise and developed a device to control the decibel units of the loudspeakers at the mosques automatically.

The delegation, on Tuesday, met up with the City Police Commissioner, Kamal Pant and other senior police officials seeking their permission to install the devices at all mosques across the city. Pant advised them to get the device certified from the competent authority before installation, and assured them that the seized loud speakers would be returned.

"We are submitting the device to get it approved by the Karnataka State Pollution Control board and this will be done by next week," Moulana Maqsood Imran Rashadi, Imam of Jamia mosque, who led the delegation told BM. **– Bellie Thomas**

No Karnataka bandh today

There will be no Karnataka bandh on Friday. Earlier, a section of pro-Kannada organisations had called for a bandh to protest against the defacing of Sangolli Rayanna statue and burning of Kannada flag by miscreants. The protesters also demanded the banning of Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti. However, other organisations pressed for the demand to arrest the culprits but stayed away from bandh. On Thursday, former MLA and pro-Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj said that he would call off the bandh provided the MES was banned by January 20 failing which he would call for another Karnataka bandh on January 22.

7 held for realtor's murder

The police on Thursday cracked the murder case of a realtor and arrested seven people, including her husband and daughter, in connection with the case.

According to DCP South East Srinath M Joshi, the victim's second husband Naveen Kumar and his associates Santhosh and others were arrested after preliminary inquiry. Since the police suspected the role of her daughter, they took her into custody. The murder had taken place on December 27 night.

A gang of miscreants had dragged Archana Reddy out of her vehicle and attacked her with lethal weapons. Naveen confessed to the crime during questioning.

Focus on non-high risk arrivals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Omicron variant. With this, chances are, the virus could have spread to others who have come in contact with these individuals.

Patient 41, who is a 53-year-old male patient, native of Tamil Nadu, travelled from Dubai and landed in Bengaluru international airport on December 23. We have no details of his vaccination status yet.

Patient 41 was tested at the airport and even before the result was out, the passenger left the airport -- his son picked him in the car and upon reaching Trichy, Tamil Nadu, the passenger received the results. He was isolated at a Trichy hospital and the result was sent for genomic sequencing. His three primary contacts tested negative, although the results on December 28 showed the passenger was positive for the Omicron variant.

The other case in point is patient 43, positive for the Omicron variant. The 41-year-old male who travelled from Mumbai to Bengaluru by flight on December 23 tested positive for covid-19 at the airport. Thereafter, he took a bus to Mumbai the same evening. His genomic results came on December 28, which showed he was positive for the Omicron variant, whereas his primary contacts were negative.

"There have been instances where some of the patients have been getting away even after getting tested at the airport, even those who are under the high risk category. We are aware of these incidents and are strengthening the measures by keeping a tab on all the passengers, so that no cases are missed," said a senior health officer.

"We are informing the rural deputy commissioner, district surveillance officer (DSO) and district health officer (DHO) to carry out surveillance efficiently. We will put up an exit gate where all the RT PCR results of the passengers will be checked," commissioner of health and family welfare Randeep D told BM.

Randeep added, as far as patients 41 and 43 are concerned, there has been no breach of protocol, as these passengers need not wait for test results as they are not coming from high risk countries. "In such cases -- for instance, an arrival from Dubai -- we are doing 2% random testing of people coming from non-high risk countries. Hence, the person would be tested. However, there is no protocol mandating her/him to stay behind at the airport. In such scenarios where the results are positive, we are informing the neighbouring governments at a faster pace, where the patient is from, so that they can adopt necessary measures," Randeep clarified.

Rural DSO Dr Dharmendra stated that for the Mumbai returnee, the patient could have been tested at the airport as the patient could have shown symptoms or might not have been carrying a negative RT PCR test report.

"The passengers are being screened and tested. We are ensuring that no positive cases go undetected," he said.

In a late evening circular issued by the health and family welfare department, commissioner Randeep D said: "...international passengers testing positive for covid-19 on arrival at airports and isolated at various health care institutions (both public & private) are being tested for covid-19 prior to the 10 day timeline. Such testing and results have no significance and only cause confusion regarding discharge date... Any violation would be liable for strict action."

Another directive further stated that if an Omicron patient has mild or moderate symptoms, the patient can be discharged after 10 days from the date of testing positive in an RT PCR test.

So far, Karnataka has reported 43 cases of the Omicron variant.

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Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Public Notice regarding Encroachment in ROU of Dabhol Bangalore Natural Gas Pipeline of GAIL (India) Limited

General public is hereby informed that GAIL (India) Limited has laid high gas pressure Dabhol Bangalore Natural gas pipeline(Cross Country pipeline and Spur Line) from Dabhol to Bangalore and is being operated for supplying/ transporting natural gas enroute consumers.

The details of the pipelines passing through different districts of Karnataka State are given below:

Pipeline Section	Districts
SV-7 (Boregaon) to IP-4 (Kagdala) & SV-1G (Akkathangerahalla) to SV-2G(Yamunapura)	Belgaum
SV-11(Shelwadi)& SV-1H(Shirkol) to SV-2H (Unakal)	Dharwad
SV-12(Hirekoppa) to SV-13(Dambala)	Gadag
IP-5(Huvina Hadagalli)	Vijayanagara(Hospet)
SV-14(Pritiveshwarapura) to SV-15 (Basavanakote)	Davangere
IP-6(Guddagarangavvanhalli) to SV-18 (Kariyala)	Chitradurga
IP-7(Devarahalli) to SV-19 (Gollahalli)	Tumkur
SV-20 (Ramanahalli) to SV-21 (Madagondanahalli) & RT-Bidadi(Bidadi)	Ramnagara
SV-22(Sullivara)	Bangalore
SV-1B(Bychuguppe, Taverekere) to RT-Singsandra(Hosur Road (Nh-7), Near Naganathapura Junction, Singasandra)	Bangalore Urban

GAIL India Limited has acquired the Right of User (RoU) in land for laying the above pipelines under the **Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (P&MP) Act, 1962.** The land is handed over back after laying of the pipeline to the land owners for farming and cultivation of normal crops. These pipelines are laid to meet existing/future gas demand of various Industries in the country as well as for supplying the cleanest fuel to domestic/commercial customers through Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and compressed form to automotive segment as CNG. These pipelines are significant driver of growth of the country and protecting the environment.

Since, these pipelines are carrying highly inflammable & hazardous Natural Gas, the construction of any building or any other structure; construction & excavation of any tank, well, reservoir, dam or plantation of tree is strictly prohibited on that land as per the P&MP Act, 1962. These activities may damage the underground pipelines leading to potential risk to the Public safety at large & the environment in the vicinity of pipeline. Hence, people are advised and requested to refrain from any such activities in Pipeline ROU which endangers the safety & integrity of pipelines. Any Violation of P&MP Act is punishable offence and appropriate legal actions would be taken against the encroachers as per the provisions of the Act/Law.

Further, for intimating about any above such activities in ROU & potential unsafe condition, please contact:

Belgaum Base: GAIL (India) Limited(A Govt of India Undertaking), SV-2G(Yamunapura), BasvanaKoll Road, Near Basvana Temple, Kakati Industrial Area, Kakati, Belgaum, Karnataka-591113

Hubli Base: GAIL(India) Ltd, Eureka Junction, Second floor,SF-17/18, Near Court circle, TB Road, Hubli-580029

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TO BEAR WITNESS

And, this is what we saw

2021 was yet another mixed bag. Bangalore Mirror reporters were out there, keeping a keen eye on the goings-on to make sure the authorities carried out their bounden duty

BangaloreMirror
Here's why Bengaluru has no beds to spare for the really, really needy ones
Khadi is earning its bed & butter

May 1, 2021: We realised that politicians were calling the shots at some war rooms, which made us wonder where the professionals were

BangaloreMirror
Some private ambulance drivers are charging up to ₹80,000 for ferrying a body to the open cremation ground outside the city; in other places, they are cutting queues. And there's nobody to rein them in
FLEECEBAGS

May 3, 2021: Private ambulances were seen to be making a killing out of people's misery — charging a bomb to ferry bodies

THANK YOU READERS All newspapers, are indebted to their readers who stand with us during thick and thin. For us, it has always been a two-way street. You point out to us what are the issues that you face, we bring it to the notice of the authorities and together we can make a change. In 2021, we were once again humbled by our readers who kept pointing to the real issues that are plaguing our city. And we were able to highlight some crucial issues due to their active citizenry

THE CONTRAST: Our photographer managed to reach where nobody had. As slums in the heart of Koramangala drowned, these photos captured desperate moments

BangaloreMirror
From paver blocks to cobblestones and now white-topping, Commercial Street keeps on shape shifting. Smart city indeed
MEAN STREET
'White-topping, cheap and low on maintenance'

December 28, 2021: We broke the news that after much delay, there was a sudden change in plans for Commercial Street

BangaloreMirror
Middlemen have infiltrated BBMP war room and are misleading covid patients about govt quota thus coaxing them into getting admitted to private hospitals
AGENT 420
As per rules, free treatment is allowed only if one gets admitted through SAST

May 4, 2021: And here too, the middlemen had sprung up, pretending to help families coordinate things, but just fleecing them instead

BangaloreMirror
How does anyone deprive a waterbody of its status? Pattandur Agrahara Lake is now caught in such an absurd dispute
LA LA LAND
What is a lake's 'originality'?

December 13, 2021: We came across a unique phenomenon where the very identity of a lake was questioned to facilitate construction on it

November 20, 2021: Children trying to make a sport of their misery, families stunned into inaction as the deluge hijacked their homes

BangaloreMirror
In the urban wild, earth movers, road diggers and vehicles often injure snakes. However, help is at hand
HOUSE OF SLYTHERIN
Physio-laser therapy with acupuncture

November 24, 2021: At this hospital, snakes with broken spines are set on the road to recovery with acupuncture

BangaloreMirror
Of 36 all-women stations in State, only 10 are headed by women
It's a man's world at women's police stations
Top cop says women's police stations got their names not because they have women but because they handle cases of crimes against women and children

July 2, 2021: We figured out that of 36 all-women stations in State, only 10 are headed by women

BangaloreMirror
Remember our 'Leaning Tower of Paisa'?
SCOOP: Another receipt-by-deceit scheme exposed
Contract could have paid for expense of installing police chowkis in two months, but firm was given 20 years

May 10, 2021: We found that BBMP's PPP model, to set up police chowkis was just a way to cosy up to advertisers

November 18, 2021: Bountiful rain in November turned even hitherto arid spots into spectacular watery visions

BangaloreMirror
Troubled by her rheumatoid arthritis and the general lack of specialists to treat it, Janhavi Ajit Rao decided to trade her high-flying career for scrubs
From engineer to doctor, at age 47

March 21, 2021: A story of inspiration that it is never too late to follow your dream, we met the incredible doctor

BangaloreMirror
Lone BMTC service that started Friday risks cancellation in tech corridor; thanks to shoddy infra, discordant civic bodies
ROUTE CAUSE
Route 500 EB started service last Friday

October 25, 2021: A bus route created after much demand was almost cancelled due to lack of coordination

BangaloreMirror
As potholes and fine-collecting cops waylay citizens, 'enough is enough', say motorists scrambling for parking space
ROAD TRIPPIN'
Association to file PIL on parking issue

November 25, 2021: We took up the cause of citizens who are battling bad roads and parking crunch

Fast & Furious? No, thanks Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson has publicly declined 'Fast and Furious' series star Vin Diesel's request to rejoin the action franchise for its upcoming 10th instalment

Nora Fatehi tests positive for Covid-19

Nora Fatehi is the latest Bollywood celebrity to have tested positive for Covid-19. A statement issued by her team read, "On behalf of Nora Fatehi, as her spokesperson, would want to inform that Nora Fatehi has been tested positive for Covid on 28th of December. Abiding by the protocols, Nora has been quarantined under the doctor's observation since then and has been cooperating with BMC for the safety and regulations.

Her team also clarified that the actor has not stepped out ever since she tested positive and the pictures going viral on social media are from an older event. "Amid the same, the spotting pictures in circulation since yesterday are from an earlier event in the past and Nora has stepped nowhere out recently. We would therefore request to please ignore the old pictures," read the statement.

Recently, Arjun Kapoor, Anshula, Rhea and Karan Boolani had tested positive for Covid-19. In a social media statement Rhea had shared, "Yes I'm positive for Covid inspite of being super careful. But this is the nature of the pandemic." Speaking about the symptoms she added, "My husband and I are isolating and taking all medications and precautions. Everything tastes bad except chocolate, my head hurts and I'm still grateful that I got it the way I did and we will be fine in no time. For everyone reaching out to make sure we are ok, we are not too bad, thanks for checking. We love you," she added.

What is Konkona's biggest fear

Actor Konkona Sensharma has proved her mettle with rich content-driven films. But, no great task comes easily. She also has her own share of fears in the industry and also as an actor. The actor told a chat show about one of her biggest fears i.e big chunky Hindi dialogues.

The actor shared that, when it comes to Hindi dialogues, she's just 'ratoing' (learn by heart) from days and weeks in advance, and how her son helps her memorise them. "Getting my son to help me now, which is great. But that's my biggest fear". Sometimes if she finds the script consisting of very lengthy monologues then she says 'No'. Konkona also added that she finds long Hindi dialogues scary. "I don't want to learn long Hindi lines. I find it scary with the gender and things like that..."

'Love You Rachchu is about bond of marriage'

Producer is all praise for the performance of Ajai Rao and Rachita Ram

The Shankar S Raj-directed film, Love You Rachchu, which releases today, is bound to resonate with couples, says producer Guru Deshpande (**inset**).

Guru says he is thrilled that he gets to back this film, starring Ajai Rao and Rachita Ram in lead roles.

"People liked the fact that as a producer, I chose good content with Gentleman. This was when I thought that I would produce films that only have good content. Shashank narrated this story to me. He has done good films for Ajai, be it Krishnan Love Story or Krishna Leela. These are characters who are akin to real life. Now Love You Rachchu is another such film. It will resonate with couples. It speaks about the bond between a husband and wife and how a husband should stand by a wife's side when the latter is in trouble. There is a beautiful romantic thriller that lies in this story," he shares.

Guru further adds, "Both Ajai and Rachita have performed beautifully. I only wanted a heroine who performs well, as Shashank's heroines are not just for glamour, but also have a lot of scope to excel. This was why we had no other option but to cast Rachita. This was why the title was also justified. I am very happy with the way the music has been received. I am happy that all our promotional materials have been appreciated until now. We are looking at a good release and ensure we get the luck that people have had during December." **–Sunayana Suresh**

'My family members are ruthless critics'

SS Rajamouli tells us the secret behind his stunning films

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SS Rajamouli, with his high fantasy dramas, 'Yamadonga', 'Magadheera', 'Eega', has kept the audience, especially in the South, on the edge of their seats. But it was only after the huge success of 'Baahubali', that the director came into the limelight.

Once again, SS Rajamouli and his team are all set to bring back the magic on the screens with the magnum opus 'RRR', starring two powerhouse performers of the South, Ram Charan and Jr NTR. ETimes had a chat with Rajamouli ahead of the film's release. Excerpts:

After an out-and-out fictional film like 'Baahubali', what made you weave a fictional story around two real characters?

That is the most exciting thing for me about 'RRR'. We make biopics or we make fictional stories, so here I saw a fantastic chance because we have the rise of two characters that are running parallelly and in both of their lives, there is a period which no one knows about and it's such a beautiful coincidence. And I thought, what if I can make a film on a fictional story in that timeline? That really fired me. I discussed it with my father, who is the story writer of the film, Vijayendra Prasad and he also thought it is fantastic. We both sat together and came up with 'RRR' and that is the most exciting part of the film for me.

After putting in a lot of hard work for this film, how excited and nervous are you for 'RRR'?

I am super excited about the film and my nervousness starts once my work is done. And the small gap between my work being done and the release is the time when I have nervousness. But still, I have a little bit of work for the film to be done. So I am 1 percent or something away from that nervousness. So at present, I am excited. But as we near the release day, the anxiousness starts.

To read the entire interview, just scan this QR code with your phone camera

Who is the director's actor? Ram Charan, Jr NTR, Ajay Devgn, Alia Bhatt or Shriya Saran?

All of them are director's actors but their approach towards acting is entirely different. If (I have) to compare between Tarak and Charan, Tarak remembers everything, he remembers lines, all the conversations we had before, he will remember every narration that I gave to him and by the time, he comes to the shot, he is already fixed what he has to deliver and I don't need to tell him. He just delivers whatever that is needed. With Charan it's entirely different. He keeps his mind completely clutter-free, he becomes a white paper, clean slate. He comes to me and says, 'Here I am, here is the pen, you write whatever you want on me, you make me do whatever you want to.' And he does it to perfection. So the actor's approach is different but the end result is the same. The same goes with Ajay sir and Alia, they understand what the director wants and they deliver it.

Who is your biggest critic?

My whole family. They are ruthless critics, absolutely ruthless. They don't show any mercy though I am their father, son, husband, brother (laughs), they show no mercy in ripping apart my films if they don't like anything. They are the harshest and no one comes close to them. But again, they are my strength. I learn from them as they lead me in the right directions.

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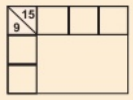

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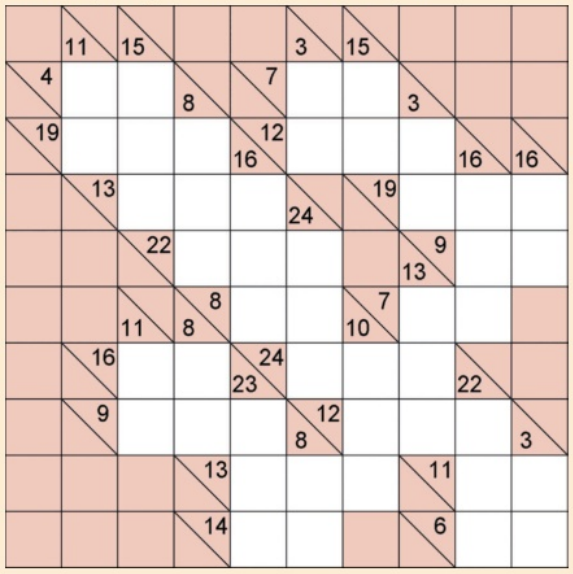

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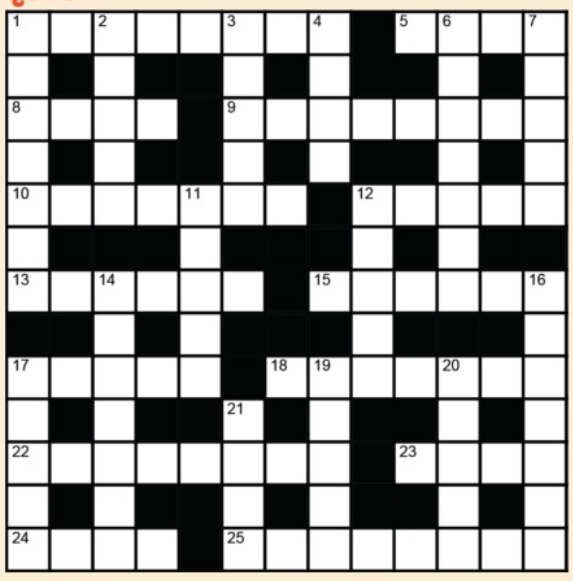


ACROSS

1 Wrestles, contends or fights (8)
5 Golfer's stick (4)
8 Conductor Klemperer (4)
9 Longing (8)
10 Writes in a hurried untidy way (7)
12 Bullets (5)
13 Indian state bordering China (6)
15 Highland musicians (6)
17 Detested (5)
18 City of Georgia (7)
22 With intense light (8)
23 Eye complaint (4)
24 Apple's tablet (4)
25 Added up or amounted to (8)

DOWN

1 Grumbles or complains (7)
2 Fragrant oil (5)
3 Faithful (5)
4 Progressed in water (4)
6 Free time (7)
7 Fraudulent (5)
11 Unnatural (5)
12 Motionless (5)
14 Bollywood's Ms Kaif (7)
16 Marine plant (7)
17 City in North Karnataka (5)
19 Assignation (5)
20 Pertaining to birth (5)
21 Let it stand! (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: W EQUALS I

KCDPF WET'P SZOSKE SZZ
WP'E PCDPYQ PC JY.

Linemaro

I don't know you, but I think I love you already

Mindchow

I just wish my mouth had a backspace key

Joke of the day

Customer service notice: Helen Waite is now in charge of all rush orders. If you are in a hurry, just go to Helen Waite

Loop

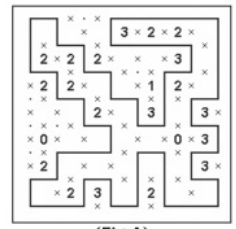
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

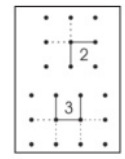
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

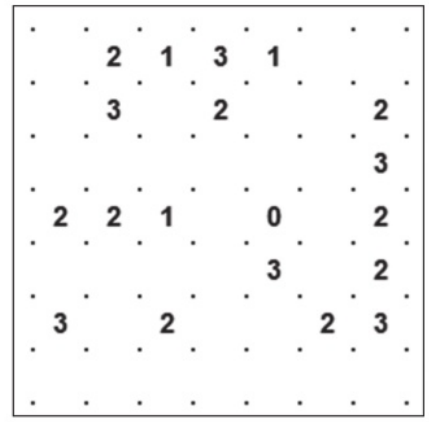
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



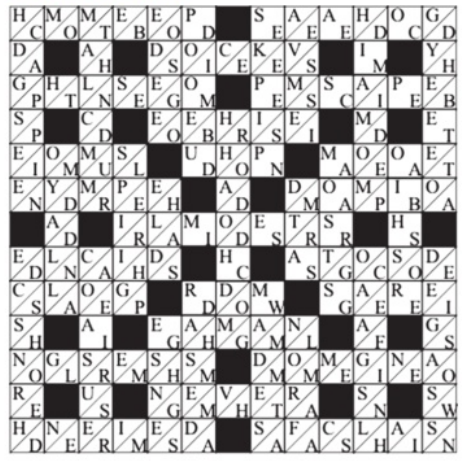
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



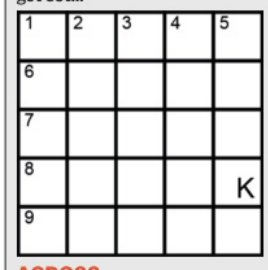
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Sir BC; 6 Siren;
7 Oasis; 8 N Huck;
9 Gees I

DOWN

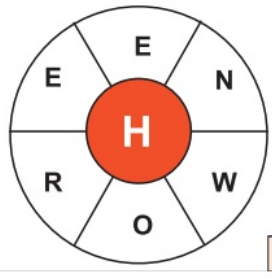
1 Or CCs; 2 Irish;
3 Sues I; 4 Begin;
5 Skean

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

A	C	F	J	L	O	S	U
T	P	M	K	G	D	B	X
V	Y	C	E	H	L	N	Q
O	M	I	F	D	Z	W	U
R	V	X	A	E	G	J	N
K	H	F	B	Y	W	S	?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2	6							7
		7		3			6	
			7			4		
		1		9			2	
6	5	9				1	4	3
	8			4		5		
		4			2			
	2			1		9		
9							7	5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 7

3 5 5 6

Medium = 15

3 6 8 9

Hard = 29

1 4 8 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

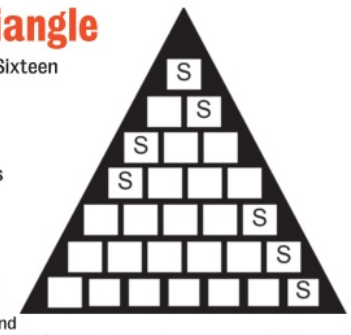
Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Letter "A" on sleeve is moved. 4. Jacket is longer. 5. Mouth is different. 6. Socks are different.

Riddler

Which month has 28 days?

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number Sixteen
2 _ easy _ a pie
3 Glum
4 Spoken
5 Notions
6 Stage comments
7 Flowers

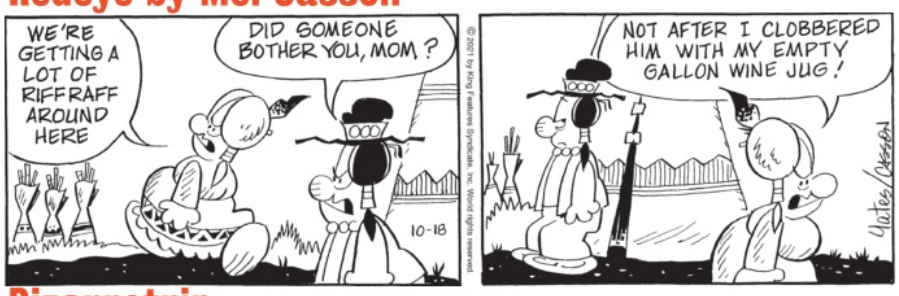


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson


WE'RE GETTING A LOT OF RIFFRAFF AROUND HERE
DID SOMEONE BOTHER YOU, MOM?
10-18
NOT AFTER I CLOBBERED HIM WITH MY EMPTY GALLON WINE JUG!
Yates/Casson
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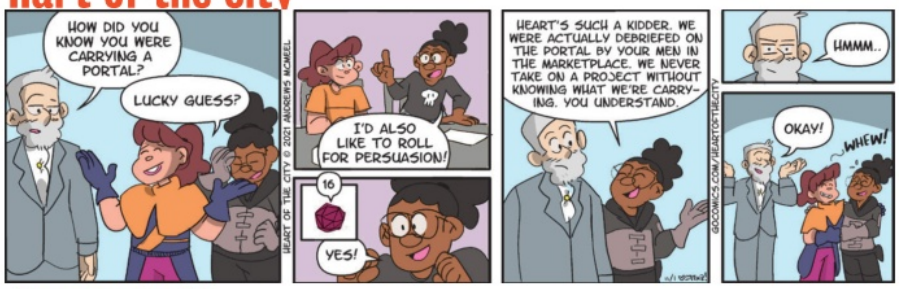
Bizarrotrip

Wayno & 3 Piers 10-28-21
BIZARRO.COM
©2021 BIZARRO STUDIOS
Prepare to die, Mr. Bond. Unless I change my mind. Destroying you would boost my evil villain cred, but then, on the other hand...
DR. MAYBE
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


HOW DID YOU KNOW YOU WERE CARRYING A PORTAL?
LUCKY GUESS?
I'D ALSO LIKE TO ROLL FOR PERSUASION!
16
YES!
HEART'S SUCH A KIDDER. WE WERE ACTUALLY DEBRIEFED ON THE PORTAL BY YOUR MEN IN THE MARKETPLACE. WE NEVER TAKE ON A PROJECT WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT WE'RE CARRYING. YOU UNDERSTAND.
@OCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
HMMM..
OKAY!
WHEW!

Crankshaft

REMEMBER BACK DURING THE PANDEMIC WHEN YOU COULDN'T EVEN FIND TOILET PAPER?
11-13
NO TOILET PAPER?
NO... BUT TO HELP, WE'VE REMOVED ALL THE METAMUCIL.
SOLD OUT
© 2021 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by North America Syndicate
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you are blessed by the positive moon and may feel good. Domestic harmony may make you happy. You may meet an influential person who may help you to get benefits on the work front. You may perform well at work and may expect rewards in terms of promotions. Disputes regarding inherited property may get settled down now.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you are blessed by the positive moon so you may be healthy and may focus on your goals. Your performance may be very good at work so your boss may be happy with you and you may get some important responsibilities at work. You may hear good news about legal matters. You are likely to control your opponents and business rivals.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may function more intellectually and may prefer gaining knowledge. You may understand the value of an intellectual asset. Sometimes you may control your short temperedness, which may help you to perform your task smoothly. Chances of smooth earning may give you comfort in the work flow. You are advised to be careful before investing in assets. You are likely to spend money for love. Love birds may enjoy happy moments.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, your moon becomes negative. You may sense negativity around you. You may find that your responsibilities are a burden. You may be in a hurry to complete tasks given to you. You may make silly mistakes. Working efficiency may slow down and affect your day-to-day work. Your projects may get delayed and affect ongoing projects. You are advised to take advice from your elders, before making any important decisions.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon and may hear good news from your sibling. You may spend your time with family and friends. With the help of creativity, you may plan to renovate your house or office. You may begin a new partnership with a family member, which will be beneficial in the near future. Juniors at office may help you with a project.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel negative. Tasks will be incomplete and you may become a victim of mood swings. Your patience may be tested many times and silly mistakes may confuse you and affect completion of work. Love birds may find themselves confused. Expectations may affect your emotional attachment with the spouse. You are advised to take care of your parents. Students may lose concentration.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, the positive moon may help you. You may experience happiness and peace of mind. You may work efficiently and your juniors may cooperate with you to make some important decisions for business. You may plan to start a new venture with the help of your siblings and network, which may be beneficial for the growth of business. Take proper rest to maintain your enthusiasm.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, your moon becomes negative so you may feel detachment from responsibilities. You may buy worthless stuff, which may boost negativity in the house or office. Keep an eye on your opponents and rivals, or you may become a victim of conspiracy. Read documents carefully before signing them.

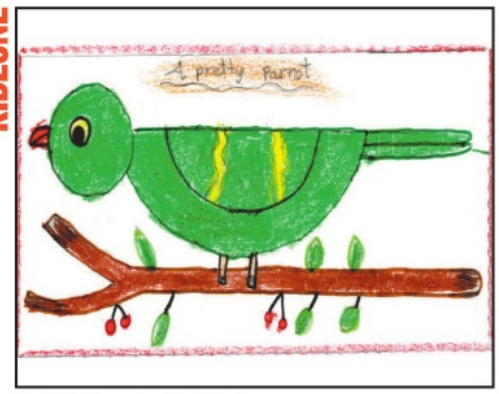
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today , you are blessed by the moon and may enjoy your family and professional life. You may be polite to the people around you, which may help in smooth completion of your work. You may find new sources of earnings, which may boost your savings. You may also plan to renovate your house or office.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are blessed by a positive moon. You may enjoy work and get rewards for your hard work. Your respect in society may increase. Overworking of your mind may make you tired. Work may keep you from attending some family event. Chronic health issues related to your parents may get cured now.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you are blessed by the positive moon. You may be satisfied with work. You may plan a short work-related trip. You may also visit some religious place to maintain your inner peace. Your elders may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today your moon becomes negative so you may feel dull. Keep your mind cool. Think twice before acting on things. You may travel to recover your money, or you may lose the money. Avoid adventurous tours. Students are advised to study thoroughly to succeed.

KIDZONE



Anshul , 9 Years, Kendriya Vidyalaya

Kadhiravan N, 8 Years, Clarence High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
50+50-0+4 = 104

BULL'S EYE
here, hero, heron, hewn, hone, horn, NOWHERE, when, where, WHEREON

FAST FIVE

S	I	E	G	E
R	I	S	E	N
C	H	U	N	K
O	S	S	I	A
R	I	S	E	N

RIDDLER
All of them of course!

QUOTE UNCODE
Youth isn't always all it's touted to be.

STRIKE OUT

H	O	T	B	E	D	S	E	A	D	O	G			
A	A	D	O	C	K	S	I	H						
P	H	L	E	G	M	E	S	C	A	P	E			
P	C	E	R	I	E	D	T							
E	M	U	S	D	O	N	M	E	A	T				
N	Y	M	P	H	A	M	A	M	B	O				
H	A	E	A	G	A	N	F	S	W					
C	L	O	G	R	O	W	S	A	R	I				
E	L	C	I	D	H	S	T	O	D					
A	R	A	I	D	E	R	S	H						
E	S	N	E	V	E	R	S	W						
O	G	R	E	S	S	D	O	M	I	N	O			

QUICK

G	R	A	P	P	L	E	S	C	L	U	B			
R	T	O	W	E	O									
O	T	T	O	Y	E	A	R	N	I	N	G			
U	A	M	S	A	U									
S	C	R	A	W	L	S	S	L	U	G	S			
E	E	T	R											
B	R	I	G	H	T	L	Y	S	T	Y	E			
U	R	S	A	W										
H	A	T	E	D	A	T	L	A	N	T	A			
A	R	L	E											
S	I	K	K	I	M	P	I	P	E	R	S			
E	E	R												
S	C	R	A	W	L	S	S	L	U	G	S			
I	P	A	D	T	O	T	A	L	L	E	D			

MENSA PUZZLE
P. Starting at the top left circle, and moving right, then down one row and moving left, in a snakes and ladders pattern, letters move through the alphabet in steps of 2, 3 and 4, repeating this pattern all the way down.

SUDOKU

2	6	5	4	8	9	3	1	7
4	9	7	5	3	1	8	6	2
1	3	8	7	2	6	4	5	9
3	4	1	6	9	5	7	2	8
9	1	3	8	6	4	2	7	5
5	2	6	3	1	7	9	8	4
8	7	4	9	5	2	6	3	1
7	8	2	1	4	3	5	9	6
6	5	9	2	7	8	1	4	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, As, Sad, Said, Ideas, Aslides, Daisies.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 + 5 – 6 + 5 = 7
Medium
6 – 9 + 8 x 3 = 15
Hard
8 x 4 – 3 x 1 = 29

LOOP

KAKURO

1	5	9		5	9			
9	2	1	6	8	3	2	1	
	9	7	2	8	7	9	6	
	8	1	7	6	9	1	8	
	5	8	9		2	9	7	
	1	7			1	3	8	9
1	6	2	9	7	3	8	2	9
3	1	8	6	2		5	1	

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2021 MOVIE TREND

A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

It was the year when we watched films in many languages and fell in love with pan Indian stars

Combined star power, stories with universal appeal dubbed in different languages and the rising power of OTT releases helped pan Indian content reach viewers beyond their traditional audience base, be it movies like "Minnal Murali", "Pushpa", "Joji", "The Great Indian Kitchen" or shows like "The Family Man 2" and "Aranyak". While the pan India collaboration never went away, they weren't really mounted on a massive scale and were often simply just about remakes, the streaming revolution has leveled the playing field for all kinds of content.

Superstar effect

South superstars Kamal Haasan, Akkineni Nagarjuna, Prithviraj Sukumaran and Kichcha Sudeep joined hands with producer Reliance Entertainment to present the Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada versions of "83", a sports drama based on India's historic victory in the 1983 World Cup. Malayalam superstar Mohanlal, who has acted in Hindi movies like Ram Gopal Varma's "Company", "Tezz" with Ajay Devgn, said the cultural exchange is a blessing. "It's a great movement. People know each other, they can bring films together. The subject should demand a pan India film," Mohanlal told PTI.

All is connected

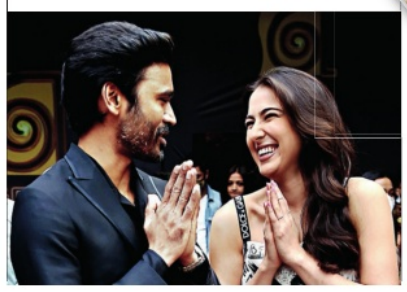
Director SS Rajamouli, the man who is said to have altered the definition of a pan India film with the success of "Baahubali", said, "A pan Indian film does not mean that actors from different languages come together. It means a story and emotion that connects to everyone irrespective of the language." Kamal Gianchandani, CEO PVR Pictures and president of Multiplex Association of India (MAI), said this trend augurs well for the cinema exhibition business. "If you have one 'Baahubali' every year I don't think this business will have to look back ever," Gianchandani said. Dhanush, who returned to Hindi cinema with "Atrangi Re", believes his father-in-law Rajinikanth is the pioneer in this.

Language no barrier

A day before the release of his multilingual film "Pushpa" on December 16, Telugu star Allu Arjun said there was a clear division between the north cinema and south cinema in the 2000s, which has now started blurring. "In the last decade, we slowly saw the gaps bridging. Today, we see everyone is familiar with each other. In the near future, the lines will be so blurred that you won't come to know where the films are coming from," Arjun told reporters. "I would like to make everything pan India... Language is no barrier to the cinema. I would say we should go for a multi-language release and see how far we can go as Indian cinema," he added. Arjun may have hit on a winning idea as his film, released on December 17 in theatres in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Hindi, has amassed Rs 275 crore gross in 11 days and earned Rs 39.95 crore in Hindi speaking market alone.

More recognition

After the success of Amazon's "The Family Man" season two, Samantha Ruth Prabhu told PTI the quality of Hindi content being offered to her has improved "very much". Parambrata Chatterjee credited streaming platforms for introducing fans who know him only through Sujoy Ghosh-directed "Kahaani" or his other Hindi projects to his work in Bengali cinema. "Because of the OTT revolution, people are now aware of the Bengali work that I've done," he said.



Remakes of past

In the old days, it was all about remakes barring some notable cross-overs of talent, be it Dilip Kumar's 1967 hit "Ram Aur Shyam" or Jeetendra's "Himmatwala". Also, it was the South that nurtured the late Sridevi before she went on to rule Bollywood for over five decades.

Twist in the tale

Fahadh Faasil's "Joji", a new retelling of 'Macbeth', was loved beyond Kerala as one of the best films of 2021. Faasil followed the success of "Joji" with another critically-loved film in "Malik". Both released on Amazon Prime Video. "The Great Indian Kitchen", a story about how women in a patriarchal society are tied to back-breaking work of cooking and cleaning around the house, was a hit with critics. The movie was rejected by streaming platforms and released on Neestream but it is now available on Amazon. Most recently, Netflix went all out to promote the Malayalam movie "Minnal Murali".

Kamal Haasan is another pan India star who has worked in Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, and Bengali films. In the 1980s, actor Jeetendra was paired with Jaya Prada or Sridevi for remakes. **–PTI**

Sandalwood eyes a bigger stage in 2022

The Kannada film industry is all set to leave its mark on the pan-India market in the upcoming year. Kannada films were once known for being mainly art-house productions and festival circuit favourites, but with the commercial success of the action drama 'KGF-1', Sandalwood can claim to have arrived on the national screen. The industry is looking up to the sequel, 'KGF-2', which is slated to be released in July next year, to give it the boost it is so looking forward to.

The industry enjoyed an exalted reputation for quite some time in the second half of the 1900s, when directors such as GV Iyer, MS Sathyu, Girish Karnad, BV Karanth and Girish Kasaravalli made headline news.

Now, it has a new lease of life by the rise of a pan-India superstar in the form of the 'KGF-1' star, Yash. The actor has also spoken about the Kannada film industry on various platforms and how he took it upon himself as a challenge to prove that it's on a par with other language film industries.

Much awaited: The films 777 Charlie and Kabzaa have generated much interest already

In the year going by, Sandalwood received a jolt when superstar Puneeth Rajkumar passed away on October 29. With the entire state in a state of mourning over the loss of a beloved star, the producers of the big-budget movie 'Bajarangi' had to suffer huge financial setbacks. The industry, however, managed to get the box office cash registers ringing again as large crowds welcomed 'Kotigobba-3' and 'Salaga'. Later, 'Garuda Gamana Vrushaba Vahana', 'Madagaja', 'Badava Rascal' and 'Rider' also managed to put up a good show at the box office.

Much-anticipated events in the coming year will be the posthumous release of the Puneeth Rajkumar-starrer documentary 'Gandhada Gudi', directed by the popular wildlife documentary filmmaker JS Amoghavarsha, and the commercial movie 'James' directed by Chetan Kumar. 'Gandhada Gudi', meanwhile, is expected to make a mark at the national level. After 'KGF-2', the Kichcha Sudeep-starrer 'Vikranth Rona' is slated to be a pan-India movie. This Anup Bhandari directorial is said to be one of the biggest releases of the industry in the upcoming year. Super Star Upendra, who's popular in Tollywood, is ready to make a grand entry on the national scene with 'Kabzaa', which is being produced in five languages, including Hindi. Rakshith Shetty, known for his experiments, is rolling out '777 Charlie', which is about the journey of a dog named Charlie. The movie is to be released in Hindi, Malayalam, Telugu and Tamil. Speaking to IANS, Umesh Banakar, a film producer and actor, stated that there is a steady increase in the number of pan-India projects led by the Kannada film industry. "There is still scope for content-oriented films," he stated, pointing out that the number of cinema theatres in Karnataka has come down to 650 to 675 from 1,700. **–IANS**